

## BOOK REVIEW

*Insects of Western North America.* By E. O. ESSIG. The Macmillan Company, 1926. \$10.00.

As a result of Prof. Essig's energy and ability, we now have an encyclopedic work on the insects of western North America or from Mexico to Alaska and from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. Although this is a large volume of 1,035 pages, including an extensive index of authors, host plants and subjects, it is devoid of padding, even transitional words being sacrificed to make room for entomological facts. Except for fifty pages that deal with such arthropods as millipeds, sowbugs, centipedes, spiders, ticks, mites, etc., the book is concerned entirely with the various orders of insects. Keys to the suborders and families are included and each family is treated as a unit. The amount of text devoted to the family and its better known species depends upon their economic significance. Injurious species are dwelt upon in some detail, inclusive of life history, habits, control, characteristic markings, distribution, etc., while the uneconomic ones are accorded briefer mention. Covering the field that Prof. Essig does, the accounts must of necessity be concise. Numerous bibliographic footnotes referring to the systematic and economic literature are available for those who want extended accounts. Seven hundred and sixty-two excellent illustrations accompany the work and add considerably to its value. The eastern entomologist will find in Prof. Essig's book that many species are common to both east and west and will be interested in the regional forms that occur. Packed as it is with facts and including, as it does, notes on so many species, this book is bound to remain for many years the standard reference work on the insects of Western North America. There is little in it that can become antiquated soon. Names may change, new facts may be discovered and methods and means of control may become out-of-date, the latter quite rapidly. No author can protect his book against the first two happenings, nor would he want to against the second. As for the third, Prof. Essig does not elaborate upon control methods and such as he mentions are only a small part of the large body of entomological information that is presented.

—H. B. WEISS.